

**KIWASSEE**  
**JUNE 22, 2010**  
**CHAIR: R. Castellon**  
**PIG: R. Briggs**

**SMOKE SIGNALS**  
**www.kiwassee.org**  
**INVOCATION: Burk**  
**MAILER: J. McLellan**

**KIWANIS**  
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**MUSIC: Winegardner**  
**EDITOR: Cronenberger**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Duane Townley says you can still sign up to work at Eagle Village this Thursday and/or Friday
- Mike Briggs is holding a Club News & Publicity committee meeting next Tuesday at 1:00 pm
- Mike Feider: Kiwassee Foundation meeting next Tuesday at 1:00 pm
- **GOLF TOURNAMENT** Monday July 19<sup>th</sup> at Midland Country Club. Signup sheets available. Get your team together, and solicit others to join us.
- Kiwanis night at the Loons game is July 21<sup>st</sup>. See Rene or Ron Beech

#### **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Liz Peters, Division 19 Lt. Governor, joined us. She filled us in on some Michigan Division and District news. Saginaw Downtown and Saginaw Riverside clubs have successfully merged. A dues increase is in the works because Division membership is way down. Certain controversy attends this. But, good news, sponsored youth clubs are way up.

Bruce Rayce was inducted as our newest member. Bruce is a retired Dow HR manager and has lived a number of different places including Europe and Saudi Arabia. Jim Young was the sponsor.

#### **PROGRAM, SAFE & SOUND**

Dick Skochdopole representing Jr. Youth introduced Sarah Holsinger from Safe & Sound. This organization advocates that each child is entitled to live in a safe, non-threatening home environment. Judge Donna Morris was a prime sponsor of Safe & Sound.

Sarah leads the Forensic Interview Program. Its role is to coordinate investigation of possible cases of sexual or severe physical abuse of children under 18 year of age. Referrals are received from either Child Protective Services (CPS) or a law enforcement agency. In 2009 there were cases involving 151 children in Midland County referred to this service

The real advantage of the Safe & Sound facility is that children can be interviewed in a safe, comfortable environment by Sarah. This encourages them to tell their own story in their own words. She is part of a team including an attorney from the prosecutor's office, a CPS representative, and a law enforcement person. These latter three observe her interview and interaction with the child, out of sight, behind a one way mirror. The sessions are recorded on DVD in case the material is needed for subsequent court proceedings.

Of all reported cases of sexual assault, about 70% are against children. Only 10% of the youngsters are abused by complete strangers. The remainder is by someone they are related to or otherwise know such as a neighbor.

About one quarter of cases in Midland County result in criminal charges being filed. In other cases, CPS may recommend corrective actions such as removing the child from the home or family counseling. In response to a question, Sarah offered three possible motives for what seems to be an increase in reports of child sexual exploitation. The first is that the family structure is often not very strong and problems that were previously solved internally are referred to outside agencies. The second is there is mandatory reporting of suspected abuse by certain agents such as physicians and police. Third, there is more education of children today about what is and isn't appropriate behavior by adults towards them.